

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method for forwarding frames between Ethernet network nodes in which an output queue is provided for storing frames to be forwarded in the same direction, and more than one frame stored in the output queue are combined into a single frame, and the combined frame is then transmitted to the output port corresponding to that direction. With this configuration, packets encapsulated into a plurality of frames are stored in the output queue during transmission of the previous frames in the same direction or during their inter-frame gaps, and then combined into one packet, the combined packet being encapsulated into one frame to be transmitted. Accordingly, the amount of data that can be transmitted during a certain time period is increased by the amount equivalent to the reduced number of inter-frame gaps compared to when packets encapsulated into a plurality of frames are individually transmitted, thereby achieving more efficient frame forwarding.